

The present paper considers the fulfilment of the prophecy then made.

Dr. Spencer inserts what he terms a "*dry medicated artificial membrane*, made of cotton agitated in finely powdered boric acid until the powder is thoroughly incorporated in all the interstices of the fibre. The cotton pellet thus prepared is then inserted as far as the fundus of the canal by means of the angular forceps.

It is claimed that the use of such an artificial drum-membrane favors the growth of a new membrane. It may be used even when the ear is discharging, as it tends to check the latter. Two cases are cited in which the hearing was improved, and the condition of the ear greatly benefited by this means of treatment.

THREE CASES OF AURAL POLYPUS IN WHICH THE NEOPLASM WAS OF GREAT SIZE, AND PRODUCED SERIOUS CONSTITUTIONAL SYMPTOMS.

DR. R. W. SEISS, of Philadelphia, contributes a paper with the above title in a recent number of the *University Medical Magazine*, July, 1889. In the first case, a woman, twenty-one years old, was affected with epileptiform seizures from the presence of a large polypus, extending from the drum to beyond the meatus externus. As soon as this peripheral irritation was removed the woman recovered.

In the second case, a man, twenty-three years old, was found to have complete paresis of the facial nerve, marked vertigo, weakness, and pallor. Examination revealed a large rugous polypus in the ear of the affected side. In the course of five or six weeks after removal of the polyp and antiseptic treatment of the ear, the paresis had disappeared, and the general health greatly improved.

In a third case, that of a man twenty-one years old, there had been a slight bloody discharge from the right ear for eight years, recently there had been pain. The patient had been weak, easily nauseated, and faint. A large, tough, mulberry-like polypus projected from the meatus; upon its removal the man's condition immediately improved.

THIRTEEN CASES OF CHRONIC PURULENT OTITIS MEDIA, TREATED BY EXCISION OF THE AUDITORY OSSICLES; WITH REMARKS.

DR. C. J. COLLES, of New York, has published an article with the above-named title in a recent number of the *Deutsche med. Wochenschrift* (No. 28, 1889).

After observing that the usual local treatment for chronic otorrhœa in many cases fails to bring about a cure, because the disease lying in the ossicles which have become necrotic, and the latter being held in the drum-cavity by synechial bands and the remnants of the membrana tympani and the normal ligaments of the ossicles, drainage is interfered with, and the diseased elements retained in the cavity of the attic. It has, therefore, become apparent to aurists that these diseased tissues, which prolong the suppuration, must be removed by excision if a radical cure is to be obtained. Hence, Schwartze, Kessel, and others in Germany, and Sexton, in this country, have practised excision of the remnants of the ossicles and the membrana tympani in cases of obstinate purulent otitis media.

Dr. Sexton, in a recent work on the ear, gives an account of excision of these diseased remnants in twenty-nine cases of chronic purulent otitis media, which had defied all forms of the usual routine treatment for chronic otorrhœa.

The operation is performed by him under ether, and the illumination of the ear, in which a light must be brought near the organ, is accomplished by means of an electric lamp held on the forehead by a head-band, like that of the forehead mirror, and supplied from a small portable storage battery.

Dr. Colles adds the notes of thirteen cases of this operation for the cure of chronic purulency of the ear, occurring in Dr. Sexton's practice.

The results were eight cures, and five cases much improved in hearing, and in obtaining freedom from attacks of earache, tinnitus, and vertigo. The ages of the patients varied from four years to forty-two years.

We wish that more were said as to the after-treatment, if there was any, carried out in these cases, but not a word is said as to the detail of operation, nor what course of treatment or hygiene was pursued. In our experience with this operation, the results are best where at least a mild antiseptic after-treatment has been observed. This may be no more pretentious than keeping the meatus hermetically plugged for some days, or until cicatrization sets in, with cotton impregnated with boric acid or iodoform. In our opinion, in many cases, this operation is the only method of obtaining a cure of the chronic suppuration. When we consider how important to health and life a cure of chronic suppuration of any part of the middle ear is, this operation is worthy of all attention and the most careful elaboration on the part of aurists.

ELECTROLYSIS IN CHRONIC SUPPURATION OF THE MIDDLE EAR.

GRUBER, of Vienna, has applied Voltolini's method of electrolysis in the cure of nasal polypi, to granulations and polypi in the ear (*Wiener med. Blätter*, No. 8, 1889). He concludes that electrolysis easily causes granulation and polypi in the ear quickly to disappear. The effect is the prompter, the stronger the current and the longer it can be endured by the patient. But it is usually a painful process. Polypi as large as peas were made to disappear, after one application of electricity, in thirteen days. In some cases, however, small granulations required longer treatment. The otorrhœa did not always cease with the disappearance of the polypi. The method is so painful that it is advised only when no instrument can be used. We must say we have never met a granulation or polyp so small as not to permit snaring or hooking off.

Two methods have been employed; one in which the kathode is placed on the mastoid while the anode is placed as deeply as possible in the growth. In the other method, both poles are armed with needles, which are separated from 1 to 2 mm., and are then both placed in the growth. In both cases a current from ten elements of a Siemens and Halske's battery was employed, and this was endured not more than two minutes by any patient.

MICROÖRGANISMS IN THE SECRETIONS OF OTITIS MEDIA ACUTA.

During the past two years, DR. E. ZAUFAL, of Prague, has been publishing his researches among the microörganisms found in the secretion of acute